

125,000 GUATEMALA CITIANS HOMELESS

Complete Destruction of Central American Capital Reported To Washington

ANOTHER GREAT EARTH UPEAVAL FINISHES WORK

The Death List Is Now Thought to Be Very Large

AMERICAN VESSELS ORDERED TO GIVE AID

Weather in Hill Region Is Very Cold and Suffering of the People Is Intense

Washington, December 30. Guatemala City, capital of the little Central American republic of Guatemala, has been laid in ruins by a series of earthquakes beginning Christmas Day and culminating last night in violent shocks which completed the work of destruction. A cablegram to the navy department today said 125,000 people were in the streets without shelter and that a number were killed by falling walls. Naval vessels in Central American waters have been ordered to the stricken city to render all possible assistance.

Following is the brief dispatch which brought the news of the catastrophe:

"Bad earthquake yesterday finished the work of others. Everything in ruins and beyond description as a result of last night's shocks. One hundred and twenty-five thousand people are in the streets. Parts of the country are very cold and windy. Tents are needed badly. Quite a number killed yesterday by falling walls."

The shocks probably occurred between 5:57 and 7 o'clock last night. Violent earthquakes were recorded at that time by the seismograph of the Georgetown university observatory, and the distance was estimated at 1900 miles from Washington.

SERIES OF SHOCKS

Earthquakes have been prevalent in Guatemala since the day after Christmas when shocks were general throughout the republic. With each recurrent shock the damage in Guatemala City, the capital of the republic, has grown more extensive. Last Thursday it was reported that from 10 to 40 persons had been killed in the disturbances of the previous night, while dispatches of Friday and Saturday indicated that 80 percent of Guatemala City had been demolished and that thousands of persons were homeless.

MANY DISASTERS THERE

Guatemala has been the scene of many disasters, the results of earthquakes. Since the settlement of the country in 1822 there have been more than 60 volcanic eruptions and in excess of 300 earthquakes. The original Guatemala City was destroyed in 1641 and 8000 of the inhabitants were killed by a deluge of water from a nearby volcano which was rent by an earthquake. The second capital was destroyed by an earthquake in 1773. The houses of the present capital were built low in consequence of the liability to earthquakes.

Guatemala City has a population of nearly 100,000. It is situated on a plain at an elevation of 4950 feet above sea level. In the great square stood the old royal palace, the cathedral and archbishop's palace and government offices. The capital is the center of the trade of the entire republic, which consists in the manufacture of muslins, cotton yarns of fine texture, articles of silver and embroidery.

SAN SALVADOR REPORT

San Salvador, December 30.—Guatemala City, capital of the republic of Guatemala, has been completely destroyed by an earthquake. Many persons were killed in the disaster, some in their homes and others in the streets.

The Colon theatre, which was filled with people, collapsed. There were many casualties among the audience.

Various hospitals and asylums and the prisons were badly damaged and many patients and prisoners were killed.

The railroad depot, sugar mills, post-office, American and British legations, United States consulate, and all the churches in the city have been leveled.

Deep fissures opened in the middle of the city.

The inhabitants, in panic, have fled from the capital. More than 80,000 persons are homeless. The stock of provisions in the city is scant, and aid is required promptly.

The Salvadorean government has suspended the official New Year celebration and entered into mourning in sympathy with Guatemala.

Summary of Outstanding Developments In News From Various War Fronts

Aside from bombardments and reciprocal artillery duels, little is going on in the major theatres of the war. On the French front the weather is still cold and this, with the snow that covers the ground everywhere, is impeding operations on a large scale.

The Germans Saturday night essayed an attack against the British northeast of Ypres, where for the last several days they had been laying down a heavy preparatory artillery fire. The attack, however, was futile, for the British, ever on the watch, raked the Germans with their fire and repulsed them with considerable losses.

Likewise attempts by the Germans to carry out raids on small French posts near St. Quentin, Bézouvaux and Vanuols, resulted in failure, and in addition the enemy lost men made prisoner. There

is still considerable intermittent artillery activity along the entire French front.

In the Italian theatre the infantry for the present is idle, but the big guns continue to carry out mutual bombardments against opposing positions in the hill region from the Asiago plateau eastward to the Piave river. This activity is particularly pronounced on the Monte Tomba sector, and a few miles to the east on both sides of Pederobba, near the upper reaches of the Piave river.

The British forces under General Allenby continue their victorious march against the Turks in Palestine. Considerable fresh progress has been made north and northwest of Jerusalem, particularly in the occupation of Birah, about 12 miles to the north, where the Turks offered stubborn resistance, but finally were overcome.

Winter Comes In Shivering Blasts; Relief In Sight

M'ADOO WILL TAKE UP CONSIDERATION OF LABOR PROBLEM

This, With Freer Movement of Coal, Will Be Dealt With at Once

Washington, December 30. Freer movement of coal to districts suffering under the cold wave and the treatment of labor questions will be the chief railroad questions dealt with this week by Director General McAdoo.

By the end of the week it is expected to be well along in the task of framing legislation guaranteeing railroads compensation on the basis of pre-war earnings. President Wilson is expected to go before Congress Thursday.

Heads of the four railway brotherhoods, who conferred with President Wilson last week, were summoned today to confer next Thursday with the director general regarding the relations between administration. Although the brotherhood heads are not expected to press their demands for higher wages for some time, most officials believe the government will soon take up in a comprehensive way the varied requests of labor for better pay and make a general readjustment which will increase wages slightly.

Mr. McAdoo today appointed as his private secretary for railroad work Oscar A. Price, who was director of publicity for the second liberty loan and previously was auditor of the interior department.

The administration plan for dealing with railroads refusing to accept a government guarantee of average earnings of the last three years, as proposed by the President, is to throw disputes into the hands of a board of three arbitrators appointed by the interstate commerce commission. They would hold out the questions of what would constitute fair earnings under the new conditions. In addition any railroad would still have the constitutional right to take its case to a court.

It now seems probable that a government corporation will be formed to purchase equipment for leasing to roads and to buy and sell securities issued by the railroads. No specific authority for this corporation will be given in the proposed legislation, however, all powers being delegated to the President to be administered as he chooses. It is still undetermined what appropriation will be sought for the purchase of equipment, but the amount probably will be between \$10,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

CUPID SHOOTS DART AND CAUSES CAPTURE OF NOTED CRIMINAL

Ben Metcalf Comes Out of Hiding to Marry and Falls Into Law's Net

Chattanooga, December 30.—Ben Metcalf, safe robber and companion of the notorious Bill Cody, both of whom escaped from the Tennessee penitentiary two years ago, was captured here tonight by local detectives. Metcalf was serving time for blowing a safe at Whiteside, Tenn. He had come out of the wilds of James county to marry a girl near LaFayette, Ga., and was captured as he stepped from a train here.

TEMPERATURE GOES TO 13 BELOW ZERO IN NEW YORK CITY

This Is Lowest Record in History of Weather Bureau—Much Suffering Results

Miami, Fla., December 30.—A flurry of snow fell here today. It was said to have been the first snow ever seen in this vicinity.

Jacksonville, Fla., December 30. The lowest temperature in the state during the day was unofficially recorded here when the thermometer dropped to 22 degrees above zero before noon.

Washington, December 30. Prospect of relief from the bitter cold wave that has swept over the south in the past 24 hours, extending into Florida, and bringing the coldest weather, with one exception, in the history of New Orleans, 19 degrees above zero, was held out tonight by the weather bureau.

The forecast for virtually every southern state was for slowly rising temperature at least by Tuesday. For Monday, however, continued cold was forecast.

The blanket of cold air which swept out of the west brought record low temperatures to New York and New England and little hopes of relief were held out until possibly Wednesday. As far south as points in the mountains near Bristol, Va., Tenn., unofficial temperatures of 28 below zero were reported and from down the Florida peninsula, Miami reported snow.

MODERATE IN WEST
Coincident with the movement of the cold area towards the Atlantic the weather west of the Mississippi moderated to an extent where normal temperatures for this season now are being registered.

The lowest temperature recorded throughout the country today was at Northfield, Vt., where the mercury dropped to 26 below. With 14 below at Boston and 13 below at New York last night all records for the local bureau at those cities were broken and in the coast states south of New York the cold was the severest since 1880.

Snow is forecast for the northern Mississippi valley and lake regions Monday and for the middle Atlantic states and New England Tuesday. Higher temperatures will accompany the snow.

SUFFERING IN NEW YORK
New York, December 30.—New York city experienced the coldest weather in the history of the local weather bureau today when the temperature at 8:30 a. m. went down to 12 degrees below zero. Ex-

HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS HURRYING BACK TO TASKS

Congressional Programme Is Not to Be Delayed at Opening

PROBE COMMITTEES TO RESUME WORK

Quick Action Is Expected Following Delivery of the President's Speech Outlining Legislation

Washington, December 30. Congressional leaders were returning to Washington today, cutting short their Christmas holiday to prepare for important work to be undertaken when Congress reconvenes next Thursday.

They expect to deal promptly with proposed new war legislation, particularly that desired by President Wilson in connection with government operation of the railroads, which the President will outline in a special message.

Committees investigating war activities plan to work throughout this week except for New Year's day. Tomorrow the Senate military committee will hear Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance, in reply to criticisms of Colonel Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun. Secretary Baker also will be afforded an opportunity to make a statement on machine gun questions before the committee closes its ordnance inquiry and returns clothing and other supplies and equipment.

NAVAL PROBE

Investigation of naval affairs will be resumed Thursday by the House naval subcommittee. Inquiry into the delays in the merchant shipbuilding programme will continue tomorrow with the long deferred statement of the shipping board on the stand, before the Senate commerce committee.

Preliminary study of railroad problems will proceed tomorrow before the Senate interstate commerce committee, with further examination of Interstate Commerce Commissioner Hall. A contest is in prospect between Senators Pomerene of Ohio and Smith of South Carolina over the post of committee chairman vacant as a result of Senator Newlands' death.

On Wednesday the Senate committee investigating sugar and coal shortages moved to resume the long deferred statement of Food Administrator Hoover. When Congress reassembles Thursday both houses will adjourn for the day out of respect to Senator Newlands and Representative Bathrick of Ohio, who have died during the recess.

BILLS TO COME UP

Unless the President should deliver his address late this week on railroad legislation, little business will be done in either House before the following week. A final vote on the Walsh-Pittman coal and oil leasing bill is to be taken in the Senate Monday, January 7. The first task of the House after the recess will be to push through the administration bill to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase \$100,000,000 of federal farm loan bonds each year for two years, a measure which already has passed the Senate.

Tallahassee, Fla., December 30.—A special police guard was placed around the state capitol here tonight by orders from Governor Catts after the finding yesterday of a note which the police said they believed was a connecting link in a plot to blow up this statehouse building.

The note, said to have been concealed in a walnut shell, is alleged to have contained an inverted inscription which Chief of Police Irvin translated as follows:

"Bombs are ready; don't fail me. Capitol unguarded. Meet me tonight at home."

The police advanced the theory the note was lost by a messenger while carrying it to persons connected with the alleged plot.

Summary of the News

GENERAL NEWS
1.—Destruction of Guatemala City begun Tuesday, is completed by another earthquake.

Weather bureau promises some relief from intense cold.

House and Senate leaders hurrying back to tasks.

Modification made in censorship rules.

All unneutralized Germans must register during week of February 4.

Democrats are not alarmed at lessening margin in Congress.

Peterson celebrating peace negotiations.

Local optimists issue call for state-wide meeting.

Russia agrees to resume business relations with central powers.

LOCAL NEWS
1.—Local postoffice reports best business in history.

Dr. Byrne at local infirmary.

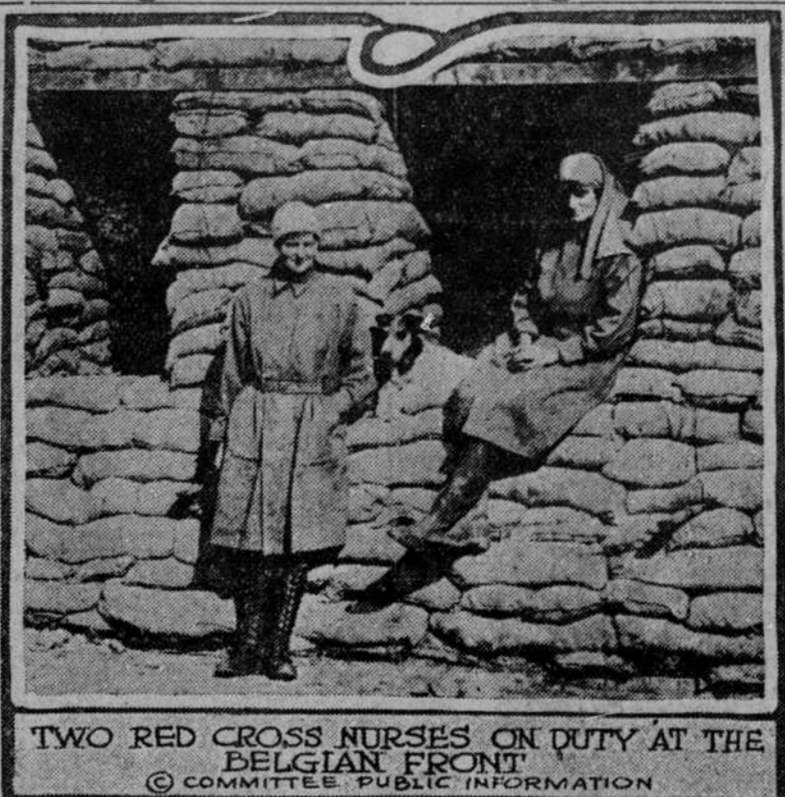
Atlanta receives fast federal plan.

Coldest weather in years experienced in Birmingham Sunday.

FEATURES
1.—Editorial comment.

2.—Market review.

"Doing Their Bit" at Belgian Front



Two Red Cross nurses on duty at the Belgian front, a part of the army of courageous women who have given up their comfortable homes to relieve the suffering caused by the German hordes.

DEMOCRATS SHOW NO ALARM OVER LESSENING MARGIN

Republicans Seem Unwilling to Take Advantage of Situation in Congress

THEY FEAR TAKING OVER RESPONSIBILITY

As Result Burden of War and Political Legislation Will Remain Where It Now Is

By HUGH W. ROBERTS
Washington, December 30.—(Special.) Democrats are not alarmed and republicans are not hopeful because recent deaths have reduced democratic margins in the House and Senate.

It is stated on very high republican authority that no effort will be made to unseat democrats from positions of control in the House. The republicans declare they could do so, and would do so, but for their desire that democrats be held responsible for all political legislation which might be enacted.

DEMOCRATS CONFIDENT

Democratic leaders are imbued with conviction that they will continue to hold control of the House following elections next year, and that despite the deaths of Senators Hastings, Lane and Newlands, which complicated the already dubious situation, they will retain control of the upper branch. They believe that a democrat will be elected to succeed Woodrow Wilson. In other words, they are as confident that they have made good and that the people are appreciative, as they are that in the long run Germany will be brought to its knees.

HAVE "COLD FEET"

It is true that the republicans have cold feet or have adopted uncanny strategy to have effect in approaching elections. They have as democrats, and on "highbrow" topics are able to control probably a majority of the so-called independents. Nevertheless, they made no attempt to elect Miss Jeannette Rankin chairman of the suffrage committee, which they could have accomplished. Republicans permitted the unseating of Bacon of the Second Michigan, and the seating of Beakes, democrat, without the formality of a roll call.

MARGIN IS SLIM

The margin of strength between the parties is exceedingly slim. When Beakes took his seat, democrats numbered 215, and republicans 211; with eight independents and a democratic vacancy in the Fourth Illinois. The death of Mr. Bathrick of Ohio reduced the democratic strength to 214. Four democrats are expected to resign after the beginning of the new year, and the resignation of Fitzgerald of Brooklyn has already been accepted. Others to resign are Bruckner, elected president of the Bronx, New York; Griffin, elected sheriff of Brooklyn; Hurlbert, who is said to be slated for a good berth in the administration of Mayor Hylan, and Adamson of Georgia, appointed member of the board of appraisers.

TO MAKE SOME LOSSES

The losses through the resignations of New Yorkers will be made up by Tammany activity, it is predicted, and there is no question but that Georgia will supplant Adamson with a democrat. Bathrick represented a doubtful district. At any rate, democratic strength will be reduced to 209. Republicans would have a majority of 2 but for the fact that three of their number will join the colors. The three are Heintz of Ohio, La Guardia of New York, and Johnson of South Dakota. It is indicated, therefore, that until late in January, democrats will number 209 and republicans 208.

The voting strength will be so evenly balanced by the date of the elections next year that throughout the United States interest will be centered in even the most remote and insignificant district.

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MODIFICATION MADE IN GOVERNMENT'S CENSORSHIP RULES

Committee on Public Information Issues Revised Regulations

PAST EXPERIENCE IS CAUSE OF CHANGE

Names of Line Officers and Identification of Individual Units in France Can Now Be Published

Washington, December 30.—Revised regulations or requests to guide the American press in the voluntary censorship observed since the country went to war were issued tonight by the committee on public information. Several important changes have been made, representing the lessons learned by the committee and the army and navy officers since the first regulations were issued last June.

Three of the original requests to which special importance was attached and under which loyal newspapers have gone to press without many an interesting piece of news have been withdrawn entirely. They are the requests that nothing be published tending to disclose the names of line officers or individual units of the expeditionary forces, the identity of American merchant ships and their crews defending themselves against submarines or giving information relating to drydocks and repair and construction work.

UNOFFICIAL EXPLANATION

Unofficially it is explained that the prohibitions are withdrawn largely because of the difficulty in having them universally observed, and in the belief that such information would be obtained by the enemy regardless of whether it appears in the American newspapers. Other changes are made and there are some additions, but most of them are of minor character.

COMMITTEE STATEMENT

With the regulations the committee issued this statement: "The committee on public information makes public herewith a revision of the requests of July 30 with respect to the concealment of military information, for the guidance of correspondents and editors who have patriotically placed themselves under censorship of their own en-

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ARGENTINE VESSEL, BRINGING MISSION, HIGH ON BEACH

The Pimento Loses Course in 50-Mile Gale—Commander and Crew Are Saved

An Atlantic Port, December 30.—The Argentine government vessel Pimento, understood to be bringing an Argentine mission to the United States, was driven ashore on the coast near here last night. The ship, estimated at from 300 to 400 tons, was almost high and dry on the main beach tonight. The commander and crew were taken off by surf guards today and were quartered at life saving stations.

The Pimento, caught in a 50-mile gale and blinding snowstorm, missed her course and struck on the beach. She was rapidly driven inshore by a pounding surf, the heaviest of the winter.

Reports tonight from the commander of a tug standing by said the vessel could probably be floated on tomorrow's high tide if the sea abated.

UNNATURALIZED GERMANS ARE TO BE REGISTERED IN WEEK FEBRUARY 4

Department of Justice Issues Instructions on the Method of Undertaking

POSTMASTERS AND POLICE NAMED TO CARRY OUT WORK

These Aliens Are Not to Be Treated as Evil Inclined, States Order to Registrars

Washington, December 30.—The week of February 4 was set aside by the department of justice today for registration of the half million unneutralized Germans in continental United States by police and postmasters in pursuance of President Wilson's alien enemy proclamation directing this action as a means of minimizing the danger from enemy sympathizers in the United States.

Earlier plans for administering the registration in the eastern cities first and gradually extending it to the entire country, were abandoned because of the fear that some Germans might avoid registration by moving from district to district.

MUST CARRY CERTIFICATE
Registration will involve the gathering of detailed information concerning of detailed information and habits of every German, together with his photograph and finger prints. After registering he must carry a certificate card and may not change his place of residence without approval of the police or postmaster. Violation of the regulations will be punishable by imprisonment for the war.

WOMEN NOT INCLUDED
The orders do not apply to German women nor to any person under 14 years of age, because these are not classed as alien enemies by law. Subjects of Austria-Hungary are not required to register.

In announcing the regulations today, the department of justice took care to avoid creating the impression that the government looks on each German with suspicion.

"Registrars are not to be treated as persons of evil dispositions," said instructions to registrars, "and the registration officers are urged to deal with them in a courteous and friendly manner."

MANY CO-OPERATORS

Police, federal marshals and agents and postal authorities are expected to co-operate in the round-up during registration week, and to investigate and check up each fact reported by the registrants. Certificate cards will be issued only after a complete verification is made. The information obtained will be of distinct value to officials in running down enemy plots and propaganda, and in discovering what Germans bear close watching. The task will be great in cities where the German population is large, and newspapers will be asked to assist.

POLICE ACT IN CITIES

In cities of 5000 or more population, recorded by the 1910 census, a list of which is issued by the department of justice, the chief of police and his assistants will administer the registration. In smaller communities and rural districts registration will be conducted by the postmasters, and the postmaster of the largest office in the local judicial district, in most states the equivalent of a county, will be the chief registration officer to gather reports from the others and forward them to the United States marshal and the department of justice. In most cities the work will be done by precincts.

MUST MAKE AFFIDAVIT

Every German is required to go to the registrar and make out triplicate affidavit information blank and to furnish four photographs of himself, one for each affidavit and one for his registration card. The photograph must bear his signature written across the front and must not be larger than three inches square. It must be on thin paper and have a light background.

The affidavit provides for recording name, address, age, place of birth, occupations and residences since January 1, 1914, date of arrival in the United States, whether married, names and ages of children, whether the registrant has or has had any male relatives in arms against the United States, whether registered for the draft, military training, naturalization conditions and similar information. Full description of the man and the prints of each finger must be taken by the registrar. The registrant must swear to the affidavit before the registering officer.

SMALL OFFICE PLAN

Small postoffices not equipped with finger print apparatus are advised to borrow a small quantity of printers ink and a roller from the town printer and to make the impressions upon the ink spread on a pane of glass.

One of the triplicate records is to be kept by the registration agent, one sent to the United States marshal and one to the department of justice at Washington. The registrant is not at their place of residence during the week of February 4 may be registered in the district in which they have been.

Registration plans will be made later for the Philippines, Hawaii, the Panama canal zone, Alaska, Virgin Islands, Guam and Samoa. Several million registration blanks and other forms will be distributed within the next few weeks.

The registration is under the direction of John Lord O'Brien, special assistant to Attorney General Gregory, and a staff of lawyers appointed for war work.